

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-14, 20, 21, and 25 are cancelled in the present application. Claims 15-19, 22-24, and 26-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 15, 24 and 31 are independent claims. By this response, claims 15, 17, 24 and 28 are amended.

Claim Objections

Claims 15, 24, and 31 are objected to due to minor informalities. Applicants hereby amend the above claims per the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

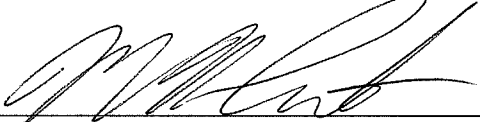
Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative, Michael Cammarata (Reg. No. 39,491) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution .

Dated: November 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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